

THON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, thank, and express my sincerest gratitude for an incredible group of students at the Pennsylvania State University—Penn State.

On February 18 at 4 p.m., Penn State students, staff, family, friends, volunteers, and spectators filled the Bryce Jordan Center for the 50th Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more widely known as THON, to raise money for the Four Diamonds Foundation.

Since 1973, student volunteers have come together at Penn State to raise money for the Penn State Health Children's Hospital. In 1977, THON partnered with the Four Diamonds Foundation, and since then not a single Four Diamonds family has received a medical bill thanks to the tireless work and dedication of Penn State students.

The Four Diamonds was founded by Charles and Irma Millard in 1972 after their son, Christopher, lost his battle with cancer at age 11. Before Christopher passed away, he wrote a story about a great knight who sought out the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength to be saved from an evil sorceress. His parents realized those four qualities were all necessary to overcome cancer, and they created the Four Diamonds Fund in his memory.

Mr. Millard passed away in November of 2021 at the age of 93, but his legacy through THON and his foundation will no doubt live on forever.

Over the past 50 years, THON has grown into the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. In the first year, 78 students danced for 30 hours straight and raised just over \$2,000. Today, THON is a 46-hour no sitting, no sleeping dance marathon celebrating nearly 17,000 students' yearlong fundraising efforts to help end childhood cancer.

Thankfully, after a virtual event last year, 667 dancers and tens of thousands of student volunteers and supporters attended the event in-person. Students stood from 6 p.m. on Friday, February 18, until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 20. While it was an impressive feat to hold, what is even more incredible is the drive, fortitude, and flexibility these students showed in their commitment to this cause.

This past year, the pandemic prohibited students from hosting many of their traditional bake sales, ribbon sales, or other fundraisers that Pennsylvanians have been accustomed to seeing throughout the Commonwealth. Despite this, THON shattered previous fundraising records by bringing in more than \$13.7 million for the kids.

□ 1045

Over the last 50 years, THON has now donated more than \$200 million to Four

Diamonds Fund, undoubtedly saving hundreds of lives.

While it is no easy feat to stand for 46 hours, the real highlight of this event comes on Sunday afternoon, shortly before the event concludes. During what is known as Family Hour, THON invites Four Diamonds families onto the stage to share their experiences with the Children's Hospital, Four Diamonds, and THON.

This year, Jacquie Homan shared the story of how her son was diagnosed with synovial cell sarcoma at age 2. Thanks to Penn State Children's Hospital, Declan is officially 5 years cancer-free, and Jacquie said that the support from the THON community had an immeasurable impact on helping their family cope with and move forward from this diagnosis.

I am inspired by Declan and every other child and family who find themselves battling cancer and am in awe of their strength and their spirit as they keep fighting.

I am also proud of the Penn State students who continue to be so committed to this cause. And I am incredibly proud of the work done by the Four Diamonds Foundation and Penn State Children's Hospital as they conduct lifesaving research and ensure no family ever receives a bill.

Congratulations, once again, to everyone involved in this year's THON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, we return to You this day. With our whole hearts, we approach You.

On this day, some fast that they would satisfy their hunger only with Your word. Others weep, ashamed of the choices they have made which have distanced themselves from You. And still more mourn, grieving the loss of Your loving embrace.

Be merciful to us, O God. Be slow to anger. Show us Your grace that we would enjoy again Your steadfast love.

Then spare Your people. Let no one say, "Where is our God?" Have pity on those who cry out to You this day.

Remove the enemies from those who call on Your name and walk in Your

way. May Your children no longer fear. In Your redemption, may they once again find reason to rejoice.

Praise be to you, O Lord our God. You are in the midst of us. We call upon Your most holy name. Hear our prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS DAY

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, six years ago this month, I heard the phrase triple-negative breast cancer for the first time in my life. I was in the oncologist's office with my newly diagnosed 29-year-old daughter, Lauren, a day forever etched in my memory.

In the weeks that followed, I learned a great deal about this very aggressive, rare form of breast cancer. Roughly 12 percent of breast cancer survivors are designated as triple-negative.

It is the only form of breast cancer that doesn't respond to hormone therapy, often requiring chemotherapy instead. And it claims the lives of thousands of women and men each year. It stole Lauren from our family in August of 2017.

Tomorrow, March 3, is Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Day. I am humbled to sponsor a resolution to call attention to this awful disease and to let the thousands of victims of triple-negative breast cancer know they are not alone.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.